

California Department of Conservation  
**FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM**

**2016 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Amador

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Patrick Hennessy

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2016
Data description: True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps: None
Additional imagery used: None

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:**

*The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2016 mapping.*

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2014 maps)
None
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps, Street View: <a href="http://maps.google.com">http://maps.google.com</a>
GIS Data Used for Reference
Amador County parcel data

**2014-2016 CHANGE SUMMARY:**

*Changes made during the map update are summarized by type and location. Particular attention is paid to large or unusual changes and their estimated acreages. Please note that land use type, size of land use unit, soil quality, and Farmland of Local Importance definition (if any) determines the final Important Farmland (IFL) category. [See definitions](#) at bottom of table.*

<b>Conversions to Urban Land</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	1 change
<p>While there is only one change, it was a notable change. Approximately 50 acres of irrigated pasture was converted due to the new Mule Creek State Prison facility expansion.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	72 changes
<p>The vast majority of this type of change is due to homes, but most of these homes were pre-existing. In the forested areas of the county, structures can be shrouded in tree cover. The USDA NAIP imagery, along with Google Maps and Streetview, provided the opportunity to accurately determine structure densities. The following areas had the majority of this activity: Camanche Village, Pine Grove, and Pioneer. Only four of the changes exceeded 30 acres and most were less than 20, while the largest was 75 acres.</p>	
<b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	31 changes
<p>Most of this type of change was due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. All of the changes were less than 20 acres in size and most occurred in the Shenandoah Valley, with a few others in the Buena Vista area. There were also instances where a homestead was separated from the irrigated farmland category.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	5 changes
<p>There were only five changes from irrigated farmland to Other Land and all were for five acres or less. Homesteads, farmsteads, and riparian areas were the reason for the changes, increasing the accuracy of the irrigated farmland boundary.</p>	
<b>Conversions to Irrigated Farmland</b>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	16 changes
<p>This type of change was primarily due to new vineyards or additions to existing vineyards in the Shenandoah Valley. One exception was the mapping of the Ard Aven winery along Willow Creek Road. Additionally, there were three small changes to irrigated pasture in the area around Lone. All of the changes were less than fifteen acres each.</p>	
<b>Unusual Changes</b>	
<p>(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2016 update.)</p>	
<p>There were many needed improvements and adjustments to the boundaries of Lake Amador and Pardee Lake. This resulted in conversions from and to Water. The urban</p>	

boundaries throughout the county were also improved this update. Areas that were tracked for lacking structures were removed from Urban Land. This happened in Lone, Jackson, Amador City, Drytown, Plymouth, Sutter Creek, Camanche Marina, Mule Creek State Prison, Pine Grove, and Pioneer. The single, largest change was 55 acres in Sutter Creek along Commerce Drive. The remaining changes were each 20 acres or smaller. It was these changes from Urban Land that prompted the extra effort to accurately map the existing urban at Camanche Village and in the forested areas of Pine Grove and Pioneer.

### **Areas of Concern for Future Updates**

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2018 update, and reasons.)

Fields in the area around Lone may be switching between irrigated pasture and irrigated farmland. The irrigated farmland may be alfalfa or simply silage. The fields are fenced, are very green with irrigation, and look impeccable causing one to wonder if livestock ever graze the fields.

### **Definitions:**

**Irrigated Farmland** includes most irrigated crops grown in California. When combined with soil data, these farmed areas become the Important Farmland (IFL) categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance & Unique Farmland. Because of the nature of the IFL definitions, some irrigated uses, such as irrigated pastures or nurseries, may not be eligible for all three IFL categories.

**Nonirrigated land uses** include grazing areas, land used for dryland crop farming, and formerly irrigated land that has been left idle for three or more update cycles. These uses are frequently incorporated into county Farmland of Local Importance definitions.

**Other Land** includes a variety of miscellaneous uses, such as low density rural residential development, mining areas, vacant areas and nonagricultural vegetation. Confined animal agriculture facilities are mapped as Other Land unless incorporated into a county Farmland of Local Importance definition.

**Urban Land** includes residential, industrial, recreational, infrastructure and institutional uses.

For more on map categories, including Farmland of Local Importance definitions, visit the [FMMP web site](#).

**LABOR ESTIMATE:**

*Time estimates for conducting the 2016 update.*

Image interpretation, start date: 1/22/2018
Image interpretation, number of days: 15
Ground truth dates: 2/28/2018
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 5

*Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:*

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>